

CLAIMS

- 5 1. A pharmaceutical powder composition suitable for inhalation comprising microfine particles of medicament and at least one lactose pellet having a diameter of from about 10 to about 1500 micrometers, which pellet comprises a plurality of microfine lactose particles.
- 10 2. A pharmaceutical powder composition according to claim 1, wherein said at least one lactose pellet has a diameter of from about 150 to 1000 micrometers.
- 15 3. A pharmaceutical powder composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein at least about 90% by weight of the microfine particles of lactose have a diameter of less than about 15 micrometers.
- 20 4. A pharmaceutical powder composition according to any preceding claim, wherein said at least one lactose pellet is hard or soft.
- 25 5. A pharmaceutical powder composition according to claim 4, wherein the soft lactose pellet has a crushing weight of about 50 to about 500mg as determined by the crushing test described herein.
- 30 6. A pharmaceutical powder composition according to claim 5, wherein the soft lactose pellet has a crushing weight of about 50 to about 100mg as determined by the crushing test described herein.
- 35 7. A pharmaceutical powder composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the medicament is selected from the group consisting of anti-allergies, bronchodilators, anti-inflammatory steroids and mixtures thereof.
8. A pharmaceutical powder composition according to claim 7, wherein the medicament is salmeterol xinafoate.
9. A pharmaceutical powder composition according to claim 7, wherein the medicament is salbutamol sulphate.

10. A pharmaceutical powder composition according to claim 7, wherein the medicament is fluticasone propionate.

11. A pharmaceutical powder composition according to claim 7, wherein the medicament is beclomethasone dipropionate or a physiologically acceptable solvate thereof.

12. A pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim, wherein the microfine particles of medicament form at least one medicament pellet.

13. A process for preparing a pharmaceutical composition according to any preceding claim, comprising admixing microfine particles of medicament with at least one lactose pellet having a diameter of from about 10 to about 1500 micrometers, which pellet comprises a plurality of microfine lactose particles.

14. A process according to claim 13, wherein the admixing comprises coating the lactose pellets with a liquid suspension or solution of medicament.

15. An inhalation device comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12.

16. A composition according to any one of claims 1 to 12, wherein the medicament is selected from the group consisting of anti-allergics, bronchodilators, anti-inflammatory steroids and mixtures thereof, for use in the treatment of respiratory disorders.

17. A method of treating respiratory disorders which comprises administration by inhalation of an effective amount of a pharmaceutical powder composition which comprises microfine particles of medicament selected from the group consisting of anti-allergics, bronchodilators, anti-inflammatory steroids and mixtures thereof and at least one lactose pellet having a diameter of from about 10 to about 1500 micrometers, which pellet comprises a plurality of microfine lactose particles.

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